



Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy
Floor Statement as Prepared for Delivery
Introduction of Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution
June 29, 2017

Mr. Speaker:

Today I will become the first House Democrat this Congress to introduce a balanced budget amendment. My bill will prohibit the federal government from spending more than it receives, except in the case of war or recession.

Democrats and Republicans may not always agree on the best way to balance the budget. But we all care about our country and our children—and both are at risk unless we rein in our unsustainable deficits and debt.

In 45 of the last 50 years, the federal government spent more than it received. The federal debt has ballooned to over \$14 trillion dollars. That is 77 percent of GDP, a figure that is expected to reach 150 percent in 30 years if we do not change course.

Just as every family is expected to balance their budget, so, too, should the federal government. This is about taking responsibility and making tough decisions—exactly what our constituents elected us to do.

A balanced budget amendment will compel Congress to walk the walk, not just talk the talk, when it comes to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this bill.